


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 19, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO AMERICA'S PROMISE
100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO IMPLEMENT PREVENTION
INITIATIVES FOR YOUTH

ISSUE: Grant application to America's Promise 100 Best Communities for Young People to implement prevention initiatives for youth.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the grant application in the amount of \$96,770 for funding to implement prevention initiatives for youth using the America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth program model;
- (2) Approve the establishment of one part-time, grant-funded position (up to 15 hours per week) for a senior high school student as a Youth Services Resource Assistant; and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth made a total of \$300,000 available to the localities that submitted applications for the 100 Best Communities for Young People. The purpose of the grant is to assist localities in delivering more of the Five Promises (*Caring Adults; Safe Places; A Healthy Start; Effective Education; and Opportunities to Help Others*) to more young people in 2007. Only communities that submitted a 100 Best application in Fall 2006 were eligible to apply for grants up to \$100,000. The City of Alexandria's selection as one of the 2007 100 Best Communities for Young People made the City eligible to apply for funding through this grant.

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services proposes to implement the Alexandria's Promise Plus Program. The program components include: (1) the integration and analysis of student survey results and other youth data, resulting in the development of a

comprehensive Citywide prevention and intervention plan; (2) the distribution of a resource guide of services and programs to every City household with children and the development of a monthly inventory of out-of-school time activities; (3) the sponsorship of Family Fun Nights to allow families to engage in fun activities while providing parents with invaluable information; and (4) a conference for youth service professionals on best practices to enhance the delivery of services to Alexandria's youth and families. The program addresses each of the Five Promises of America's Promise.

The application requests funds from America's Promise to retain the services of a consultant to develop an action plan based on the findings of the Search Institute Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors Survey (developmental asset survey), the Center for Disease Control Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and other available youth data. In addition, the City is requesting funds to expand three vehicles that have been critical to the dissemination of invaluable information to families and youth service professionals: Family Fun Nights, the Resource Guide/Out-of-School Time Inventory, and a conference for Alexandria youth service professionals

The Department of Human Services did not receive the guidelines for the application, which was due February 28, 2007, until February 2, 2007. Consequently, because there was not sufficient time to develop a plan for all these grant funds and given council meeting schedules, staff submitted the application to America's Promise contingent upon future City Council approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact to the City's General Fund. The total grant budget is \$96,770, which covers the full cost to implement the proposed program. The grant would provide for the hiring of a temporary part-time position (up to 15 hours per week) for a senior high school student as a Youth Services Resource Assistant. There are no monies available in the City budget to continue this program once the grant funds are expended, and the person hired will be notified of this condition of employment.

STAFF:

Debra Collins, Director of Human Services
Suzanne Chis, Director of Family Services, DHS
Ronald Frazier, Director of Youth Services, DHS
Dana Thompson, Director, Operations Division, DHS
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget